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**Communities include:
Lake Oswego, Oregon City,
Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin,
West Linn, Wilsonville,
and more**

Newsletter

Volume 49, Number 1

September 2023

**Early Childhood Education Program at PCC
Saturday, September 9th
Oswego Heritage House
398 10th St., Lake Oswego
9:30 - Social Time
10:00 - Program**



Jennifer Vernon

The Lake Oswego Branch provided a scholarship in the spring of 2023 to the Early Childhood Education program at Portland Community College. We are fortunate to have their faculty spokesperson, Jennifer Vernon, M.S., as our first program presenter of the year.

Ms. Vernon received her Master's in Curriculum & Instruction from Portland State. She has been working at Portland Community College since 2015, first as an adjunct professor and then becoming full-time in 2019. Previously she worked for twenty years at Clark College in Vancouver, Washington in a variety of positions. As a beneficiary of scholarships from two non-profits herself, Jennifer is keenly aware of how life-changing this type of support can be.

Jennifer is emphatic about the need to maximize our instruction to the youngest ages, 0-5, where research shows they are most receptive to learning language and the acquisition of skills. Missing those opportunities can have a lifelong impact on a child's overall development. A collaborative approach using parents, family, and classroom experience to enhance learning has been shown to be very effective. As she states "Parents are always the first teachers and home is the first classroom".

Jennifer credits some of her passion for more of a systems approach in education to her own experience. She was born in Oahu, Hawaii, and attended a school focused on parental and community participation. The community members helped to determine curricula as well as then assisting with instruction. "Tutus" (grandmothers), would come in and teach language in addition to other culture-supporting skills.

In her presentation, Jennifer will speak about:

- PCC's program and the accreditation they've received from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- Covid and its significant impact on early childhood learning
- the receipt of an ECE grant for a bilingual degree and certification program
- childcare "deserts" and how programs such as theirs are creating solutions, and
- the numerous job prospects available to their program graduates

We look forward to learning more about this remarkable program we are fortunate to be supporting.



Prez Sez....



September – a time for new beginnings. It welcomes the beginning of fall, a season of change. It celebrates as the trees change from summer green to vibrant shades of red, orange, and yellow, and nature prepares for winter.

So too does our branch celebrate a new beginning:

- we welcome new members to our community;
- we look forward to learning new things through our program;
- we unveil a new, revised look to both our newsletter and website; and
- we initiate a new relationship with Portland Community College and our Early Childhood Education scholarship.

Our interest groups also have new beginnings, as book clubs embark on new lists of books and Lunch Bunch and Delightful Dining explore new restaurants and cuisines.

For Jeanne and me, it is the beginning of our term as co-presidents. Over the years she and I have learned we have many things in common. We both are from the Midwest; we graduated from women's colleges; we married men from our hometowns; we each had two

children – one boy and one girl; we lived in and loved DC; our husbands traveled for their jobs – a lot, which left us in charge; and most importantly we were both born in September, fifteen days apart. It seemed a given that we would share this job.

We look forward to the next two years. It is a time for the branch to explore new possibilities, connect with old and new friends, and once again renew our commitment to the mission of AAUW. And so, we begin....

Jeanne Lemieux & Diana Ricks



Membership

Welcome to two new members who joined this summer, **Dianna Fisher**, and **Rachel Zierdt**. We look forward to welcoming you more formally at the meeting on September 9th.

For the rest of our wonderful members, please be sure you have renewed your membership. You should have received an email from me. Please contact me at stephanie@natureed.org or 503-803-7708 if you have any questions about your membership status.

Submitted by Stephanie Wagner, Membership chair



Interest Groups



Lunch Bunch - 3rd Tuesday at 11:30 am, Contact: Charlene Vojtilla, charjoy8@gmail.com RSVP is required to ensure seating if you would like to attend. Date: September 19th, Location: Marco's Cafe, Multnomah Village

Delightful Dining - on a Saturday every other month starting on October 28th, Contact: Jane Taft, taft.jane@gmail.com

Interpretive Books - 3rd Thursday at 9:30 am, Contact Connie Irwin, irwinconnie44@gmail.com, Date: September 21st, Book: *The Sisterhood of the Enchanted Forest* by Naomi Moriyama and William Doyle

Murder by the Book - 2nd Wednesday at noon, Contact Jane Taft taft.jane@gmail.com or Stephanie Carter secarter1@gmail.com, Date: September 13th, Book: *Hemlock* by Susan Wittig Albert

Non-Fiction Books - 2nd Monday at 11:15 am, Contact: Mary Pat Silveira, mpsilveira@usa.net, Date: September 11th, Book: *The Fly Girls Revolt* by Lauren Kessler, Location: Szechuan

Kitchen

Thursday Evening Books - 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm, Contact Suzanne Kaveckis, smkaveckis@icloud.com, Date: September 28th, Book: *Machines Like Me* by Ian McEwan

Tuesday Books - 4th Tuesday at 11:15 am, Contact Lynda Bigler, libigler@easystreet.net
Date: September 26th, Book: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks, Location: Szechuan Kitchen



Women's Equality Day

August 26th is Women's Equality Day, the 103rd anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment. First introduced as a motion in 1971 by House Representative, Bella Abzug, and formally adopted in 1973, this is the day that celebrates and honors the women's suffrage movement and acknowledges the hurdles that women have had to overcome in their stride towards equality and progress.

The Lake Oswego Branch continues working to advance gender equity for women and girls through education, advocacy, and fundraising for education/scholarships. It is our hope that you will continue to support and participate in these efforts.

Attached is a [Women's Equality Day brochure](#) and an article about the [status of Women's Equality](#) in the United States..

Submitted by Marty Maharg, Equity Chair



Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

AAUW National is supporting action by the current Congress to affirm the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). The supported option is House Joint Resolution 25. This resolution would remove the arbitrary deadline for ratification and therefore recognize that the ERA has been ratified by the legislatures of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the states. This would allow Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia to count towards ratification, thus passing the threshold to recognize the ERA as part of the Constitution. This bipartisan resolution currently has 202 co-sponsors. A discharge petition for HJR 25 was filed on July 19th. A discharge petition is a procedural rule that enables the minority party in Congress to force a vote on an issue without a report from the committee by "discharging" the committee from further consideration of a bill or resolution. A discharge petition must gain 218 signatures to advance.



TAKE ACTION NOW: National has sent a list of representatives for members to contact to urge support

for both the discharge petition and the resolution. Representative Lori Chavez-DeRemer (Oregon's 5th congressional district) is on the list. As many of our members are her constituents I am encouraging those members to write to the representative asking her to support both the discharge petition and the resolution. Her address is 1722 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 or email her Deputy Chief of Staff (Marcus Brubaker) at marcus.brubaker@house.gov.



Which of the 2023 Bills supported by AAUW of Oregon became Law?

AAUW of Oregon Public Policy Committee

Signed by the Governor:

- Senate Bill (SB) 599 requires landlords to allow childcare facilities to be located in rental properties. The companion bill HB 2468 authorizes the Early Learning Council to adopt reasonable requirements for landlords of tenants who operate a certified family childcare home in tenant's dwelling.
- SB 519 calls for expungement (deleting) of juvenile court records if requested.
- SB 424 prohibits post-secondary institutions from withholding transcripts from students who have outstanding bills due to the institution.
- House Bill (HB) 2002 established reproductive rights and gender-affirming care as it was prior to Roe v. Wade being overturned.
- HB 2535 calls for doulas to be available pre- and post-birth to pregnant women inmates at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.
- HB 3005 provides financial assistance to eligible applicants to pay for costs related to early childcare infrastructure activities.
- HB 2727 calls for a work group to examine strategies for expanding early learning and care facilities in this state.

[2023-2024 Branch Officers](#)



Our mailing address is:

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